

# NC ASSOCIATION, INC.

Post Office Box 2066 Elizabeth City, North Carolina 27906 252-331-4773

Commissioner Steve Troxler  
NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
1001 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1001

Dear Commissioner Troxler,

The NC Potato Association, Inc. understands that the Program Evaluation Division preliminary actions suggest a transfer of the Research Station Division from NCDA & CS to the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina with allocation to North Carolina State University. This action causes much concern for the members of the NC Potato Association. Our association funds have been designated for use at the research facilities for many years and we feel that operations and management of the research farms in the past have worked well and feel that data obtained through these facilities have been a valuable resource for the potato industry and agriculture production.

We understand the Program Evaluation Division is ready to report back to the N.C. General Assembly with its recommendations and our members of the NC Potato Association are disappointed that we have not been contacted to provide our input in this process. Some of our main concerns are as follows:

- 1) Selling research stations will result in the loss of productive and valuable farmland at a time when the state is also investing millions of dollars to preserve farmland.
- 2) We are aware that NCDA&CS uses the research stations across the state as staging areas to respond to emergencies such as hurricanes and drought. Transferring and/or selling the research stations will have a major impact on agriculture disaster response in the future.
- 3) We understand that this transfer will result in saving less than \$500,000. We realize there should be strategic planning between NCDA & CS and NCSU to achieve economic efficiencies. This should not include cutting research and selling valuable farmland.

The NC Potato Association is concerned with recommendations to transfer NCDA & CS Research Stations Division. Please let the NC Potato Association know if we can assist the North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services on this issue.

Sincerely,



Eric James, President

CC: NCPA Board of Directors  
Senator Daniel Gray Clodfelter  
Senator Fletcher L. Hartsell, Jr.  
Representative James W. Crawford, Jr.  
Representative Drew P. Saunders

